



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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BIG-GAME ANIMALS HOLDING THEIR OWN, SURVEY SHOWS

More than 5,800,000 big-game animals are in the United States, the Fish and Wildlife Service reported to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

The figures were based on the third Nation-wide big-game inventory conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Service with the cooperation of Federal, State, and private agencies.

Sixty percent of all the big-game animals are on State and private lands.

Compiled for the year 1939, the present figures are 201,000, or 3.4 percent, less than those compiled for the country's big-game population for 1938, but it is believed that the difference is insignificant and does not necessarily represent a decrease in game species. Some of the apparent losses are known to be due to corrections of certain estimates in last year's inventory, while others may be due to more conservative estimates.

Michigan Leads States

As in previous years, the white-tailed deer lead the big-game list with 3,578,000 of these animals reported from 44 States. Second and third most numerous big-game species are the mule deer, nearly 1,400,000 of which are estimated to be in 17 States, and the Columbian black-tailed deer, with a population of 301,200 scattered through three States.

Leading the States in big-game is Michigan with a total of 839,800 animals, 835,000 of which are white-tailed deer. Pennsylvania is second with 827,300; Wisconsin, third with 513,300; California, fourth with 502,400; and Minnesota, fifth with 461,200.

Elk rank fourth in the big-game lists with a population of 201,300 in 28 States. Wyoming has 57,800 of these animals; Colorado is second with 30,000; and Oregon is third with 28,000.

Peccaries Thrive in Texas

The speedy prong-horned antelope ranks fifth with an estimated population of 164,900 in 16 States. Wyoming has the most pronghorns, recording 34,700; New Mexico is second with 27,000; and Oregon, third with 25,700.

With 105,100 black bears reported in 33 States, this species places sixth in the big-game inventory. Washington State with 17,400 had the largest number. California came second with 16,200 and Minnesota third with 8,500.

The remaining big-game animals fall below the 50,000 mark, with the peccary, or javelina, ranking seventh with 49,800 individuals. Texas records 35,100; Arizona, 14,300; and New Mexico, 400.

Two species are almost tied for eighth place. The moose population, estimated at 14,200 is found in Minnesota (5,100); Wyoming (3,500); Montana (2,500); and six other States. Some 14,150 mountain goats are reported in four States. Washington leads with 5,800 mountain goats; Montana is second with 5,200; Idaho, third with 3,000; and South Dakota, last with 23.

Wild Boars in Seven States

Some 8,300 rocky mountain bighorn sheep are found in nine States. Wyoming has the largest number of bighorns, 2,400; Colorado is second with 2,200; and

Idaho, third with 1,700. Desert bighorns rank tenth with a total of 5,300 in five States. California leads with 2,000; Arizona is second with 1,800; Nevada, third with 1,100; New Mexico, fourth with 250; and Texas, last with 150.

Buffaloes, the only big-game animals in captivity that are included in the inventory, rank eleventh with 3,300 bison in 17 States. Wyoming is first with 850; Oklahoma, second with 720; and South Dakota, third with 518.

The exotic European wild boar is in twelfth place with 1,600 animals in seven States. North Carolina has 600 of the introduced boars; Tennessee is second with 500; and California, third with 200.

In thirteenth place is the grizzly bear with a population of 1,100 in seven States. Most of the grizzlies are found in Montana, which reports 600, and Wyoming, with 480.

The smallest population in the big-game inventory is credited to the woodland caribou, 15 of which are in Minnesota.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Listed below are the ranking and the total big-game population of each State, followed by the first, second, and third most numerous species in the State.

ALABAMA.—32nd with 9,930. White-tailed deer, 9,655; black bears, 275.

ARIZONA.—16th with 114,687. Mule deer, 52,665; white-tailed deer, 31,750, and peccaries, 14,320.

ARKANSAS.—26th with 14,949. White-tailed deer, 14,898; elk, 40; and black bears, 11.

CALIFORNIA.—4th with 502,485. Mule deer, 283,492; Columbian black-tailed deer, 187,349; and black bears, 16,280.

COLORADO.--8th with 267,411. Mule deer, 225,000; elk, 30,000; black bears, 5,098; and prong-horned antelopes, 5,000.

CONNECTICUT.--35th with 7,500. White-tailed deer, 7,500.

DELAWARE.--48th with 30. White-tailed deer, 30.

FLORIDA.--24th with 21,102. White-tailed deer, 20,664; and black bears, 438.

GEORGIA.--33rd with 9,837. White-tailed deer, 8,934; black bears, 831; and European wild boars, 70.

IDAHO.--10th with 182,046. Mule deer, 105,237; elk, 26,125; and white-tailed deer, 24,360.

ILLINOIS.--46th with 366. White-tailed deer, 366.

INDIANA.--43rd with 650. White-tailed deer, 650.

IOWA.--42nd with 850. White-tailed deer, 850.

KANSAS.--47th with 44. Buffaloes, 29; white-tailed deer, 8; and elk, 5.

KENTUCKY.--41st with 1,821. White-tailed deer, 1,716; European wild boars, 75; and black bears, 30.

LOUISIANA.--25th with 15,250. Figures estimated by Fish and Wildlife Service. No report received from State. White-tailed deer, 14,750; and black bears, 500.

MAINE.--17th with 113,378. White-tailed deer, 107,501; black bears, 4,035; and moose, 1,842.

MARYLAND.--45th with 622. White-tailed deer, 622.

MASSACHUSETTS.--31st with 11,700. White-tailed deer, 11,700.

MICHIGAN.--1st with 839,800. White-tailed deer, 835,000; black bears, 4,200; and elk, 350.

MINNESOTA.--5th with 461,275. White-tailed deer, 447,406; black bears, 8,536; and moose, 5,193.

MISSISSIPPI.--39th with 4,419. White-tailed deer, 4,280; European wild boars, 50; and black bears, 49.

MISSOURI.--38th with 4,758. White-tailed deer, 4,758.

MONTANA.--15th with 145,535. Mule deer, 70,256; white-tailed deer, 26,634; and elk, 25,131.

NEBRASKA.--40th with 3,283. Mule deer, 2,177; prong-horned antelopes, 759; and white-tailed deer, 189.

NEVADA.--18th with 77,916. Mule deer, 59,875; prong-horned antelopes, 16,719; and desert bighorns, 1,100.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.--23rd with 21,353. White-tailed deer, 20,100; black bears, 697; and elk, 328.

NEW JERSEY.--29th with 12,000. White-tailed deer, 12,000.

NEW MEXICO.--14th with 146,634. Mule deer, 93,590; prong-horned antelopes, 27,043; and white-tailed deer, 18,500.

NEW YORK.--13th with 151,250. White-tailed deer, 150,050; black bears, 1,000; and elk, 200.

NORTH CAROLINA.--19th with 66,662. White-tailed deer, 59,645; black bears, 6,377; and European wild boars, 605.

NORTH DAKOTA.--27th with 13,433. Estimated by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

No report received from the State. White-tailed deer, 13,324; mule deer, 55; and elk, prong-horned antelopes, and buffaloes, 18 each.

OHIO.--36th with 5,615. White-tailed deer, 5,600; and black bears, 15.

OKLAHOMA.--34th with 9,302. White-tailed deer, 8,288; buffaloes, 720; and elk, 231.

OREGON.--7th with 294,032. Mule deer, 171,233; Columbian black-tailed deer, 61,232; and elk, 28,014.

PENNSYLVANIA.--2nd with 827,390. White-tailed deer, 825,000; black bears, 2,250; and buffaloes, 125.

RHODE ISLAND.--44th with 642. White-tailed deer, 642.

SOUTH CAROLINA.--20th with 56,567. White-tailed deer, 56,467; and black bears, 100.

SOUTH DAKOTA.--30th with 11,849. White-tailed deer, 5,624; mule deer, 2,603; and prong-horned antelopes, 2,556.

TENNESSEE.--37th with 4,966. White-tailed deer, 4,015; European wild boars, 500; and black bears, 449.

TEXAS.--6th with 301,822. White-tailed deer, 238,565; peccaries, or javelinas, 35,100; and mule deer, 17,553.

UTAH.--9th with 203,448. Mule deer, 195,915; elk, 5,398; and prong-horned antelopes, 1,355.

VERMONT.--22nd with 24,500. White-tailed deer, 23,700; and black bears, 800.

VIRGINIA.--28th with 12,802. White-tailed deer, 11,327; black bears, 1,228; and elk, 246.

WASHINGTON.--12th with 162,159. Mule deer, 56,230; Columbian black-tailed deer, 52,620; and elk, 17,835.

WEST VIRGINIA.--21st with 27,800. White-tailed deer, 25,000; and black bears, 2,800.

WISCONSIN.--3rd with 513,333. Estimated by Fish and Wildlife Service. No report received from State. White-tailed deer, 511,430; black bears, 1,900; and moose, 3.

WYOMING.--11th with 165,515. Mule deer, 60,000; elk, 57,850; and prong-horned antelopes, 34,765.

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